

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

March 23, 2001 LB 773

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to reconsider the vote just taken.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on your motion to reconsider the previous question.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, while they are in the Chamber, I'm going to tell them what I've told them on other bills. I have to spend six and a half hours to get your attention, then an hour and a half trying to persuade you that we ought to do something to improve the bill. How many times do I have to do it? I don't know. How many times am I willing to do it? As many times as it takes. I'll bet people came in here and didn't even know what they were voting for. They will look to see how somebody voted on the board and that's the way they vote. So I'm going to take the six and a half hours bludgeoning and then I will try to show you the need to change this bill. What Senator Bromm and I established is that when you are measuring the content of alcohol in the blood, urine, blood and breath are not the same in terms of giving an accurate measure. Prosecutors don't want to take a blood test...he said maybe 30 or 40 minutes, I gave up to an hour...don't want to take it a hour after an arrest because it's shaky and it's not reliable. This bill says it can be taken up to three hours afterward. That's what a prosecutor says. And you all are still going to support this bill. I'm not going to be in the position of being ridiculed for voting for something that does not even make sense and which members of the Legislature acknowledge does not make sense. Why are you going to treat all of these tests the same when it's established that they're not the same? I'll tell you why. Because the Legislature is careless, the Legislature is lazy, the Legislature does not appreciate the duty it owes to the citizens and to this Legislature as an institution to conduct ourselves as deliberative, intelligent people who can at least read and understand what we read. So I'm prepared to take my six and a half hours and then, if I cannot persuade you in the remaining hour and a half, we'll take a cloture vote on a bad bill, and then I'll do it again on Select File. These are bills which involve a principle and a new policy. What was put into this bill by the committee amendment, that you all adopted, was not